

REMARKS

The Final Office Action issued November 14, 2003, and the Advisory Actions issued March 04 and June 23, 2004 have been reviewed and the comments of the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office have been considered. Claims 1 and 10 have been amended. Claim 25 has been added. Claims 1-25 are pending in this application. Applicants request reconsideration of the pending claims.

Claims 1-24 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Dallmeyer et al. ("Dallmeyer") (U.S. Patent No. 6,499,668). Insofar as the rejection is applicable to amended claims 1 and 10, applicants respectfully traverse this rejection because Dallmeyer fails to teach or suggest each and every element of the claimed invention, as recited in claims 1 and 10.

Each of the independent claims 1 and 10 has been amended to particularly point out and recite a method that can be achieved, in part, by assembling components of a fuel group and washing the fuel group. Support for the washing of the fuel group is provided in the originally-filed application at, for example, page 12, lines 13-18.

In contrast, Dallmeyer fails to show or describe the washing of a fuel group. Because Dallmeyer fails to show or describe each and every element recited in claim 1 or 10, including the washing of the fuel group, the Dallmeyer fails to anticipate the claimed invention as a whole as set forth in M.P.E.P. § 2131 (8th Ed. Rev. 2, May 2004). Accordingly, claims 1 and 10 are patentable over Dallmeyer.

Claim 25 has been added to particularly point the feature of rotating the fuel group relative to the power group in the claimed method. Support for claim 25 is provided in the originally filed application at, for example, page 13, lines 22-30 and page 14, lines 1-2.

Claims 2-9 and 11-25 depend from one of allowable claims 1 and 10, and are also allowable at least because claims 1 and 10 are allowable, as well as for reciting additional features.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, applicants respectfully request the reconsideration and reexamination of this application and allowance of the pending claims 1-25. Applicants respectfully invite the Examiner to contact the undersigned at (202) 739-5203 if there are any outstanding issues that can be resolved via a telephone conference.

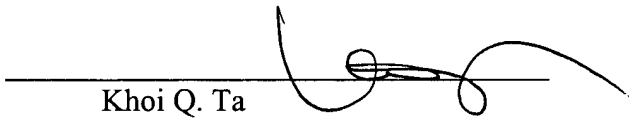
EXCEPT for issue fees payable under 37 C.F.R. §1.18, the Commissioner is hereby authorized by this paper to charge any additional fees during the entire pendency of this application including fees due under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 and 1.17 which may be required, including any required extension of time fees, or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 50-0310. This paragraph is intended to be a **CONSTRUCTIVE PETITION FOR EXTENSION OF TIME** in accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.136(a)(3).

Respectfully submitted,

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